

Worship at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 25, 2026 at 10 am

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:3)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*

I WILL SING OF THE MERCIES OF THE LORD

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing. I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known
Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness.
With my mouth will I make known,
Thy faithfulness to all generations.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing. I will sing.

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever,
I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

*"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" by James Henry Fillmore Sr.,
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ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

God dwells in the high and holy place,
but also with those who are of a contrite and humble spirit.

We come as people formed by a culture of self-reliance,
yet summoned into the humility of Jesus.

We come aware of our limits and our dependence,
receiving the Father's promise, following the Son's way,
and trusting the Spirit to shape our hearts.

God meets us here—not with condemnation,
but with grace that gives the kingdom as gift.

Let us worship the Triune God—
the Father who promises the kingdom,
the Son who embodies the kingdom among us,
and the Spirit who leads us toward its fullness.

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HYMN #478: *PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN*

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
 To His feet thy tribute bring;
 Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
 Evermore His praises sing:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise the everlasting King.

Praise Him for His grace and favor
 To His people in distress;
 Praise Him still the same as ever,
 Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Glorious in His faithfulness.

Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
 Well our feeble frame He knows;
 In His hands He gently bears us,
 Rescues us from all our foes.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Widely yet His mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore Him:
 Ye behold Him face to face;
 Sun and moon, bow down before Him,
 Dwellers all in time and space.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise with us the God of grace.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

(You are invited to join in unison with the pastor, or to follow along in silence)

God of mercy and grace,
 we confess that too often we trust in ourselves,
 boast of our accomplishments,
 thinking we can earn your favor,
 relying on our own wisdom, strength, and achievement.

We are not poor in spirit;
 we too easily cling to pride and self-**sufficiency**,
 mistake our worldly wealth or cleverness for spiritual health,
 and pretend we have no need of your grace.
 Forgive us, Lord.

Teach us to depend fully on your promise,
 to open our hands and hearts to the riches of your kingdom.

Renew us in humility and awareness of our need,
 so that we may live as people claimed by your grace.

In Christ we are forgiven, and by your Spirit we are formed anew.

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

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A CHRISTIAN'S DAILY PRAYER

As morning dawns and day awakes,
 To You I bring my need:
 O gracious God, my source of strength,
 In You I live and breathe.
 Each hour is Yours by wisdom planned,
 Each deed empowered by sovereign hands;
 Renew my spirit, help me stand;
 Be glorified today.

As day unfolds, I seek Your will
 In all of life's demands;
 And though the tempter tries me still,
 I cling to Your commands.
 Let every effort of my life
 Display the matchless worth of Christ,
 Make me a living sacrifice;
 Be glorified today.

As sun gives way to darkest night
 Your Spirit still is here.
 And though my strength fades like the light
 New mercies will appear.
 I rest in You; abide with me
 Until our trials and suffering
 Give way to final victory.
 Be glorified, today; be glorified, I pray.

*"A Christian's Daily Prayer" by Matt Merker, Jordan Kauflin, and Dave Fournier.
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READING AND PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD

Sermon: *"Finding God's Blessing in Surprising Places:
 The Poor in Spirit"*

Matthew 5:1–12

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² and he began to teach them.

He said:

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
 for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
 for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
 for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
 for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 15:17–24

"When [the prodigal son] came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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'TIS SO SWEET TO TRUST IN JESUS

Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
and to take him at his word;
just to rest upon his promise,
and to know, "Thus saith the Lord."

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust him!
How I've proved him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
O for grace to trust him more!*

O how sweet to trust in Jesus,
just to trust his cleansing blood;
and in simple faith to plunge me
neath the healing, cleansing flood! *[Refrain]*

Yes, 'tis sweet to trust in Jesus,
just from sin and self to cease;
just from Jesus simply taking
life and rest, and joy and peace. *[Refrain]*

I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee,
Precious Jesus, Savior, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me,
Wilt be with me to the end. *[Refrain]*

*"Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" by Louisa M. R. Stead and William James Kirkpatrick.
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CALENDAR

TODAY	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)
Tuesday, Jan. 27	Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Wednesday, Jan. 28	Quilting Group (10:30–2:30)
Sunday, Feb. 1	Choir Practice (9:00 in the Parlor) Sunday Worship (10:00 in the Sanctuary)

LOOKING AHEAD	February 1: Congregational Meeting (Fellowship Hall, after service) February 8: Potluck after the service February 18: Ash Wednesday Service (Fellowship Meal at 6:00; Service at 6:30) March 1: Worshipping with United Christian Church to dedicate their renewed facility, 300 West 1 st St, Aberdeen (10:50 am) March 4, 11, 18, 25: Coffee and Study (1:00 in Fellowship Hall) Soup and Study (6:00 in Fellowship Hall)
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